

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /027 W

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R 130003Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4314

INFO FAA GUAM

FAA HONOLULU APC-IF

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SN

SUBJECT: FAA AIRMAN CERTIFICATION

REF: STATE 002121

1. INITIAL REACTION OF GOS DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (DCA) IS THAT IT WANTS TO BE HELPFUL BUT WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF WHAT WOULD BE EXPECTED OF GOS UNDER REFTEL AGREEMENT. DCA OFFICIAL STATED THAT REQUEST FOR SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY TO DCA BY AIR TRUST AND IT WOULD THEN BE SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE FOR CONSIDERATION. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE BELIEVES AIR TRUST OPERATES "ON VERY MARGINA REQUIREMENTS" AND BECAUSE OF THIS THE GOS CHECKS DOCUMENTATION CLOSELY TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT AIR TRUST PERSONNEL HAVE PROPER FASS CERTIFICATION. EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH AIR TRUST GETS MOST OF THE CHARTER BUSINESS IN SINGAPORE, IT DOES NOT ENJOY VERY GOOD REPUTATION. END COMMENT.

2. AIR TRUST IS PRIVATELY OWNED COMPANY WITH ALL US-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT. SEVERAL COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY OTHER CHARTER COMPANIES THAT AIR TRUST GETS MORE THAN ITS FAIR SHARE OF THE BUSINESS THROUGH QUOTATION OF LOWER RATES, MADE POSSIBLE BY SKIMPING ON

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MAINTENANCE. EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS MAY ONLY BE

"SOUR GRAPES," BUT IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT CHARTER BUSINESS COULD BE OPTIMIZED UNDER ONE COMPANY WITH FEWER, BETTER MAINTAINED AIRCRAFT. IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE RECEIVED ONE REPORT THAT SINGAPORE AIRLINES IS INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING OVER THE LOCAL AIR CHARTER BUSINESS IN SINGAPORE. END COMMENT.

3. PRIVATE CHARTERS FOR CARGO AND PASSENGERS (PRIMARILY BY OIL FIRMS) ARE FAIRLY LUCRATIVE BUSINESS IN SINGAPORE. ONE SOURCE ESTIMATES IT TO BE US\$225,000 PER WEEK. THERE ARE ABOUT 35 AIRCRAFT OWNED BY 10 COMPANIES OPERATING FROM SELETAR AIRFIELD.

4. COMMENT: LACK OF ENTHUSIASM BY DCA FOR ENTERING INTO REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENT WITH FAA ON BEHALF OF AIR TRUST IS APPARENT, AND IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US HOW OR WHY GOS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN FAA CERTIFICATION. THEREFORE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED OF GOS UNDER SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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